AN ACT FOR IMPRESTING SEAMEN.

Die Veneris, 28 Februarii, 1650.

ORdered by the Parliament, That this Act be forthwith printed and publiſhed.

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.

LONDON:
Printed by John Field, Printer to the Parliament of England,
1650.

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WHereas the effectual and speedy setting forth of the Fleet or Fleets for the next years Service, and the well-Manning thereof, is at this time of great Necessity, considering not onely the Home-bred Distractions of this Nation and of Ireland, but the great Preparations which are making

making already in Foraign parts, in Aid and Assistance of the Malignant, Popish and ill-affected party in these Nations: Be it therefore Enacted and Ordained by this present Parliament, and by Authority thereof, That in case the Councel of State, or the Admirals of the Fleet or Fleets for the time being appointed by Parliament, shall finde, That notwithstanding the Act for Encouragement of Officers and Marriners, appointed and provided for the inducement of Seamen to engage more willingly in the Service of this CommonWealth, yet there shall not be the appointed Number of Seamen voluntarily engaging in this Service in due time, for the setting forth of the said Fleet or Fleets, but that there be a Necessity of Impressing of Maeriners for this Service, Then the Councel of State, or the said Admirals or any two of them, shall or may at any time or times from the First day of April, One thousand six hundred fifty one, unto the First day of April, One thousand six hundred fifty two, by their Commissioner or Commissioners, Officer or Officers authorized thereunto by Warrant under their or any two of their Hands and Seals, or any one authorized by the other two, Raise, Levy and Impress such and so many Marriners, Sailors, Watermen, Chyrurgions, Gunners, Ship-Carpenters, Cawkers, Coopers and Whoymen, as also Carmen for carriage of Victuals, &c. as shall be requisite and necessary for the Service aforesaid, or for any such further Defence for the Good People of England and Ireland; which said Marriners, Sailors, and other such persons, and such other persons so to be Levyed and Impressed as aforesaid, and

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every of them, shall have paid and delivered unto him or them upon such his or their Impressing, by the person that shall so Impresse him, for Conduct Money for every Mile from the place where he shall be to Impresse, to the Ship or place where he shall be appointed to make his Repair, the sum of One peny half peny per mile to each man, and the like sum of One peny half peny for every mile from the place of his discharge, unto the place of his abode; and shall be allowed for this Service, the same Wages and Entertainments in all respects, which hath been allowed by the Parliament this last year to any such person or persons imployed in the said Service. And if in the case aforesaid any Mariner, Sailor, Waterman, Chyrurgion, Gunner, Ship-Carpenter, Cabiker, Nayoyman or Carman, shall wilfully refuse to be Impressed in and for the said Service, or shall voluntarily hide or absent himself at the time of the Press, to avoid the said Service; or receiving his said Conduct-Moneys, do not appear at such places and times as by his Ticket he is appointed, That then any such person or persons so offending, shall suffer Imprisonment for the space of Three Moneths, without Bail or Mainprize.

Provided allways, and be it Enacted and Ordained, That no Money or other Reward shall be taken directly or indirectly, nor any corrupt practice used by any the persons authorized by vertue of this Act, in or for the Pressing, Changing, Sparing or Discharging of any person or persons Impressed or to be Impress as aforesaid, as they will answer such

Offence

Offence at their utmost perils before the Parliament, or such as shall by Parliament be authorized thereunto. And all Justices of the Peace, Majors, Bayliffs, Constables, and all other inferior Officers are hereby Required and Enjoyned to be aying and assisting from time to time to the persons authorized, or to be authorized by vertue of this Act, according to the true intent and meaning thereof: And in case any person or persons imployed or to be imployed in the Impressing of any Marriner, Sailor, Waterman, Chyrurgion, Gunner, Ship-Carpenter, Cawker, Whoyman or Carman, shall directly or indirectly take or receive any Money, Gratuity or Reward for Pressing, Changing, Sparing or Discharging of any person or persons so Impress or to be Impressed as aforesaid, All and every such person so offending against this Act, shall forfeit and pay the sum of Ten pounds for every such Offence; the one Moyety thereof to the use of the Commonwealth, and the other Moyety to the use of such person or persons who shall sue for the same in any Court of Record.

Provided always, That this Act shall not extend to the Pressing of any Master, Masters-Mate, Gunner, Carpenter or Boatswain of any Ship or Vessel that is or shall be in Imployment.

And lastly, for the further and better Encouragement of Seamen and Watermen to apply themselves the more willingly to this Service, It is further Enacted and Ordained, and be it Enacted and Ordained by this present

present Parliament, and the Authority thereof, That all Marriners, Sailors, and likewise all Watermen who have served an Apprentiship by the space of Seven years in their said Professions, or that are Servants and Apprentices by Indenture to any such Waterman, shall hereby be freed and exempted from being Prested to serve as Soldiers in any Land Service.

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